

# MICHIGAN TRUCK SAFETY COMMISSION **MTSC**

September 17, 2014

## Meeting Minutes

### Commissioners Present

Fred Bueter, Chair  
Tom O'Brien, Vice Chair  
Dr. Dan Blower  
Sharon Conklin  
Walter Heinritzi  
Capt. Mike Krumm  
Mike Prince  
Charles Moser  
Robert Ramels  
Tim Yungfer

### Commissioners Absent

Dave Goller

### Guests

Al Newell, Center for Truck Safety  
Michelle Zemla, Center for Truck Safety  
Chuck Simmons, Center for Truck Safety  
John Wallace, FMCSA  
Marie Barrett, MSP CJIC  
Amanda Heinze, MSP CJIC  
Jeremy Russo, MSP CJIC  
Insp. Randy Coplin, MSP CVED  
Cheryl Llano, MSP CVED  
Renee St. Louis, UMTRI  
Jan Charles

### OHSP Staff

Kathy Farnum  
Janet Hengesbach  
Charlotte Kilvington  
Julie Roth  
Heidi Ruis  
Spencer Simmons

### ROLL CALL

The Michigan Truck Safety Commission meeting was called to order by Mr. Fred Bueter, Chair, at 9:00 a.m.

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Self-introductions were made of those present.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A **MOTION** to accept the May 14, 2014 minutes was made by Mr. Ramels and supported by Ms. Conklin. The **MOTION** carries.

### STANDING REPORTS

#### A. Chair's Report – Mr. Fred Bueter

Chair Bueter reported on the changes in certification of the CDLs. By May 2014, all interstate CDL drivers must be certified by doctors on the national registry. The Secretary of State does not have medical information on record per se, just the confirmation that the drivers have passed certain mandatory tests.

CDLs also need to certify whether they are inter- or intra-state drivers. The Secretary of State is sending out letters to drivers indicating they are downgrading their license if they do not report this information, or if their medical certification has expired. Drivers have 60-days to resolve matters or be downgraded to a non-CDL license.

Effective July 2015, there is a new federal requirement which will require restriction codes, and other provisions to be reported on the trucks. Michigan remains in compliance with these CDL requirements.

Earlier this year, there were two bills introduced which would have affected the Commission. One would have removed the main funding source for the Commission while the second bill would have dismissed the commission and would have changed the fiduciary responsibility from OHSP to the Secretary of State. There was been no activity on these bills.

B. Financial Report – Mr. Spencer Simmons

Mr. Simmons reviewed the most recent financial report ending August 30, 2014.

C. Enforcement Grant Activity Report – Insp. Randy Coplin

Inspector Randy Coplin reported the “grandfathered” CDL cards expire at the end of the year. Those who still carry such cards would be required to get a physical to get retain a CDL. Members discussed the issue of sleep apnea. Some doctors will not sign off on the medical cards if the drivers refuse to have the sleep study. One reason that most drivers will not take part in the study as it is very expensive. This is causing some drivers to not renew their CDL.

Inspector Coplin reviewed the final objectives of the FY 14 grant. They have used 12,248 hours of Special Transportation Enforcement Team (STET) patrol. He indicated they continue to write many seat belt tickets. The weekend overtime used thus far is 280 of the 320 total allocated while overtime hours are at 3181 out of the 3544 hours allocated. He will report on the final numbers during the next meeting.

He reported that the rest of the objectives are complete or in process.

D. Education Grant Activity Report – Mr. Al Newell

Mr. Newell reported that he has purchased a new truck for the simulators. The simulators are working at this point. The system is eight years old and needs to be updated. Recently a transmission on one of the units stopped working. It is working now, but not up to par as it should. Mr. Newell has been around the state discussing the simulator training. He will discuss more about the simulator later in the meeting. He has hired a safety specialist to begin training drivers on safe driving techniques.

**ACTION REPORTS**

A. Review and Approval of the 2014/2015 Education Report - Mr. Al Newell

The grant objectives remain the same as past years. Mr. Chuck Simmons was recently hired to get the simulator up and running and if first impressions are anything, he'll do fine in the job. The current simulator is eight years old and is not working as it should.

Mr. Simmons presented information regarding the current simulator program. They have received positive evaluations from people who have gone through the simulator training. There is a need to get the current simulators replaced. The current ones are not working as they should and have quit during scenario training. The options include upgrading the current ones or replace them with the vendor they are currently working with.

Mr. Prince indicated that this information is included in the FY 15 grant. This presentation is just to give the commissioners more in-depth information regarding this request. The commissioners discussed the cost of these simulators and also Goal Five regarding the scholarship program with the skid pad.

Mr. Prince also mentioned there are three joint agreements in their meeting packets. The first one is between the Michigan Trucking Association and MTA Education Center, Inc. dba Michigan Center for Truck Safety and outlines the scholarship fees for the skid pad training while the second agreement outlines administering health insurance and retirement for the MCTS. The third agreement is for the \$350,000 loan to operate the center. The loan is necessary because the MCTS grant is on a cost reimbursement basis and requires the grantee to expend funding first, and then request reimbursement. Mr. Newell also spoke of the new teen drivers C/D which gives teens learning tips to operate a vehicle around large trucks.

Mr. Prince made a **MOTION** to approve the 2014/2015 Education Grant. Mr. Yungfer supported. The **MOTION** carries by roll call vote.

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Bueter			
O'Brien			
Blower			
Conklin			Goller
		Heinritzi	
Krumm			
Moser			
Prince			
Ramels			
Yungfer			

B. Review and Approval of 2014-2015 Enforcement Report – Insp. Randy Coplin

Inspector Coplin reviewed the 2014-2015 Enforcement Grant. This year there is one objective with two parts. As mandated in legislation, they are dedicating approximately 11,940 regular hours to be divided among all districts to conduct STET operations. The second part of this objective will concentrate on the top 12 Michigan counties where more CMV crashes occur.

Mr. Yungfer made a **MOTION** to approve, Mr. Heinritzi supported. The **MOTION** carries by roll call vote.

Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Bueter			
O'Brien			
Blower			
Conklin			
			Goller
		Krumm	
Moser			
Prince			
Ramels			
Yungfer			
Heinritzi			

C. Election of Commission Chair/Vice Chair

Mr. Prince made a **MOTION** to nominate for Dr. Blower as Chair of the MTSC. Mr. Yungfer Supported. The **MOTION** carries.

Mr. Ramels made a **MOTION** to nominate Mr. Yungfer as Vice Chair of the MTSC. Captain Krumm supported. The **MOTION** carries.

**PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS**

**A. CVED presentation – Capt. Michael Krumm**

Due to time constraints, this presentation will be given during the November meeting. Captain Krumm reported that their division has drafted a strategic plan for the state of Michigan. They have 11 recruits who will be graduating on Friday October 17. There is also a new commander in 8<sup>th</sup> District and a new position has been filled in Calumet Michigan due to the increasing mining industry in that part of the state. In 2015, the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division will hire 31 new officers through two recruit classes.

**B. Evaluation of TACT Project – Dr. Dan Blower/Renee St. Louis**

Ms. St. Louis began the presentation by giving background of this project. There were two corridors in West Michigan with three waves of enforcement during October, November and December 2013. She shared the media events, surveys, and interviews which were conducted. Dr. Blower reviewed the findings of the testing methods including the data received. He wrapped up the presentation noting the

timing for the observation study was not the best considering there was so much inclement weather during this time. One item determined by this study is that law enforcement officers would like more training and coordination among themselves to make the TACT program work better.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A.Update on Proposed Truck Safety Projects – This item will be discussed during the November meeting.

B.Replace/update equipment for Michigan Center for Decision Driving (skid pad) inquiry – This item will be discussed during the November meeting.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Prince reported that the MTSC annual report is due November 15. Grantees are requested to submit their information as quickly as they can as there are many channels to go through for internal approval of this report.

Outgoing Vice Chair Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Prince presented Chair Bueter with a plaque expressing the appreciation of the members for four years of leadership on the Truck Commission. Outgoing Chair Bueter thanked those present and noted what an honor it has been to be chair of this commission for four years.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the MTSC is scheduled for Wednesday, November 5, 2014.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.